

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): An in-mold foam molding method employing an in-mold foam molding apparatus comprising a core mold and a cavity mold devoid of air orifices ~~such as core vents and core vents holes~~, in those molding sections for molding prominent areas of the outside face of a molded article; and fixed partitioning members of comb configuration having a plurality of teeth for preventing passage of [[the]] bead starting materials, said members being fixed to the core mold or cavity mold with said teeth arranged along the mold parting direction;

wherein said method comprises the steps of: filling adjacent partitioned mold chambers partitioned by means of said fixed partitioning members with bead starting materials of different properties; and supplying steam to the mold cavity to heat and fuse the bead starting materials.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The in-mold foam molding method according to claim [[1]]
2 or claim 8,

wherein said passage orifices are completely or largely omitted from the core mold and

cavity mold.

Claims 4-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): An in-mold foam molding method ~~employed the~~
employing an in-mold foam molding apparatus comprising a core mold and a cavity mold devoid
of air orifices in those molding sections for molding prominent areas of the outside face of a
molded article; and fixed partitioning members of comb configuration having a plurality of teeth,
said members being fixed to the core mold or cavity mold with said teeth arranged along the
mold parting direction, according to claim 1 and employing as the bead starting materials a first
bead starting material incapable of passing through [[the]] teeth and a second bead starting
material capable of passing through the teeth, comprising the steps of: with the core mold and
cavity mold closed so that the mold cavity is partitioned into a plurality of partitioned mold
chambers by fixed partitioning members, filling with the first bead starting material; and filling
with second bead starting material; each partitioned mold chamber being filled with bead starting
materials such that at least adjacent partitioned mold chambers are filled with bead starting
materials of different properties; and supplying steam to the mold cavity to heat and fuse the bead
starting materials..

Claim 9 (currently amended): The in-mold foam molding method according to claim
[[1]] 2 or claim 8,
wherein said plurality of partitioned mold chambers are filled with bead starting materials
of different degrees of expansion.

Claim 10 (canceled).